



**Today's discussion is from the
Weather / Fire Behavior Category.**

FREQUENT SPOT FIRES ACROSS THE LINE

There are few watchout situations that state more clearly how much potential your fire has for rapid, uncontrolled growth. Consider the following questions if you are getting spot fires across your line:

- Can you handle increased spotting? List some ways you can keep ahead of spot fires (gridding the green, lookouts, etc.)
- What is your probability of ignition doing? Is it increasing or decreasing?
- Do you have a plan for long-range spotting? In what fuel type and under what conditions will you likely have long-range spotting? What types of plans can you think of for handling long-range spotting?
- Is help available if necessary? What kinds of resources will you have in place or order to handle spot fires?
- If fire behavior increases, is your position still defensible? Discuss what type of action you might take if a spot fire takes off.
- Do you have more than one safety zone in case one gets cut off? Describe how you might have multiple safety zones.
- Do the primary lookouts have a good view of the situation? Discuss who might be acting as a lookout (e.g., crew member, air resources, etc.) and how you will get good information from that person. (Are you relying on an air attack that is busy with air tankers?)
- Where are you in the burning period? Talk about how your tactics may vary from finding spot fires early in the day to later into the evening. Review Probability of Ignition (PIG) and what it can tell you about spotting potential.
- To reduce the risk, be ready to retreat. Keep your guard up even if spotting has not occurred for a few hours. Review fires where you have had frequent spot fires and what you learned about controlling them.

References:

[Fireline Handbook](#)
[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

[ONLINE](#) | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

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